

came to the end of my pole ...
When I grabbed it by the gill slits, it began to talk ...
I took it to my grandmother ... We
listened to the fish ...

Dream Poem # 12

Missoula, Montana ...
I could smell the fires in the mills --
It was on the air strong as spoiled meat ...
Winter was in my feet and hands and I kicked
down through hills of snowbanks, snowbanks ...
I was lightly dressed, I was
going to see Caroline ...
When she opened the door she was
someone else -- a Negress who wore
a clear green skirt, who stood
on the mantle and undressed ...
who took a flashlight to bed
who told me about her dead brother ...

I was in the bathroom, the
lights off, tongues of snow
coming through the window ... I was
crosslegged on the floor, naked and wet ...
I could smell the fires
in the mills ...

-- Craig Sterry

Irvine, Calif.

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